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POPULATION TODAY™

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PRB photo by Art Haupt

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They Came to Mexico City . . .

On Aug. 6, a decade of intense development of population policies and programs culminated with the opening of the International Conference on Population (ICP) in Mexico City.

Ten years had elapsed since the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest, Romania, when 135 nations reached a consensus that family planning was the right and responsibility of couples, and nations had the responsibility to help them achieve their family planning goals.

On the eve of the opening, as 3,000 delegates from 149 countries gathered in Mexico City, uncertainties about the Conference remained. Would it stick to the subject? Did the world need its population consciousness raised? At Mexico City (in contrast to Bucharest a decade earlier) the most vigorous calls for action to slow world population increase came from less developed countries (LDCs). Compounding the contrast, the U.S., a leading advocate of population control at Bucharest, journeyed to Mexico to articulate a policy that was staunchly anti-abortion and cast doubt on the view that rapid population growth retarded economic development.

No one had a confident fix on what course the Conference would actually take. Not yet.

SUNDAY AUG. 5: On this day before the opening, Amb. James Buckley and the rest of the U.S. delegation arrived in Mexico City. At a hotel press conference Buckley reiterated the Reagan Administration's opposition to abortion assistance as well as its newly expressed policy that viewed population growth as "a neutral phenomenon." But he also stated the Administration's support of assistance for family planning (though not abortion) at present or higher levels, and called claims that the U.S. was now against such assistance "press distortion."

Like the policy it expounded, the U.S. delegation was conservative, with a few moderate elements mixed in. Its members ranged from Buckley to AID director M. Peter McPherson, with author Ben Wattenberg handling demographic questions. Absent from the ranks of the delegation were any population specialists, notably the U.S.'s Coordinator for Population Affairs, Amb. Richard E. Benedick. Benedick, the State Dept.'s highest ranking population official for the last five years, was not named to the delegation, an act widely seen as a slap at advocates of longstanding U.S. views on population. (In Washington, Benedick, a career diplomat, asked to be assigned to another post, and as of Aug. 1 became Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. The post of Coordinator for Population Affairs remains vacant.)

MONDAY, AUG. 6: The Conference was given an official welcome from Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, who told the horde of delegates, observers and press assembled in the neo-baroque Palace of Fine Arts that Mexico had made progress with its population policy over the past 10 years, and warned that economic growth by itself would not solve population problems. He called for a just and

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Support Erodes in Congress for U.S. Immigration Bill

A fresh wave of opposition overtook the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration reform bill in August; and, for a bill that has already passed both houses of Congress, it remains in unusual difficulty.

Hispanic groups (who oppose the bill) joined forces with conservatives (who oppose it for different reasons). The Hispanics believe that the bill's penalties for employers who hire undocumented workers would institutionalize discrimination against all Hispanics. Conservatives oppose the bill's amnesty provisions, saying it would "legalize the theft of American jobs" from U.S. citizens. Together these unlikely companions are trying to make it hard for any elected official to cast an election-year vote for the bill.

And their efforts seem to be paying off. The loosely knit group of interests that joined together in June to approve the House version by five votes, now appears to be swiftly unraveling. In the wake of Democratic presidential nominee Walter F. Mondale's strongly voiced opposition to the measure during the Democratic convention, a number of Democrats who voted in favor of the bill on the House floor have withdrawn their support, which is crucial to the bill's final passage.

On top of this, several arguments against the bill have been given extensive media coverage, further eroding support for the bill.

Supply-side economists are arguing that immigrants, legal or illegal, are consumers and thus good for the economy. Others argue that the amount budgeted for Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) enforcement is too little to do any good. Penalties for hiring illegal workers have been enacted in several states including California with little impact.

President Reagan originally said he supported the bill, calling it "fair" and a "legitimate effort to control our borders." However, as the Republican convention drew near he indicated that he found the House version too costly and might veto it. He also said he "would not vote for any bill which would discriminate against Hispanics or anyone."

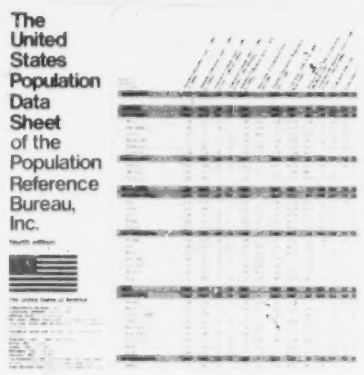
According to Hispanic leaders, there are nearly 5 million registered Hispanic voters in the U.S. They account for more than 17 percent of the Texas vote, said to be important to a Reagan victory, thus making Reagan's support for the bill doubtful.

Continued on next page

Everything You Wanted to Know About the U.S. . . .

The fourth edition of PRB's popular *United States Population Data Sheet* has just been printed and is included in this month's mailing to members. The *Data Sheet* presents 24 columns of information for the United States, its Regions and Divisions, the 50 states and the District of Columbia, in a three-color 18½ x 24 inch wall chart.

This year's *Data Sheet* reflects the continuing loss of population in the industrial areas of the North and the spectacular population gain of California, Florida, and Texas. Another side of population growth and decline not often noticed is also highlighted: birth rates. The *Data Sheet* gives the total fertility rate (TFR), or the average number of children born per woman for each state. This measure ranges from a high of 3.2 in Utah to 1.5 in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. States with TFRs below 2.1 are considered to be "below replacement," i.e., their fertility (fewer than 2 children per woman), is not



enough to sustain population growth in the long term without in-migration.

A number of states not only have lower birth rates but older populations; these older populations can be caused by the low birth rates themselves and by out-migration of younger persons to sunnier climes. These two factors, low fertility and an aging population, have some interesting consequences.

States with these characteristics have very low "birth-death ratios," or births per 100 deaths. The *Data Sheet* also gives this rather novel way of looking at natural increase or decrease in a population. Thus, Massachusetts with an older population and low fertility had only 138 births for every 100 deaths from 1980 to 1983 while many Western states such as Texas had 259 and Utah had 500!

Since this ratio is very much a product of the states' age structure, it is obvious that many states in the West and South have a good deal of population growth in their future, whether or not they continue to attract large numbers of future migrants. The reverse is, of course, true for Northern states, even those with little or no out-migration. They will either have to raise their fertility (an unlikely prospect) or see a big migration turnaround to avoid future population loss. □

Copies of the *United States Population Data Sheet*, 4th ed. are $2.00 per single copy, 2-10 copies, $1.75 each; 11-50, $1.50 each; over 50, $1.25 each. Please send payment (with $1.00 handling for orders of $20 or less) to: Population Reference Bureau, P.O. Box 35012, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Simpson-Mazzoli

Continued from page 3

In a July press conference Sen. Alan Simpson (D-Calif.), Senate sponsor of the bill, vowed to make one last attempt to get the bill passed before the end of this congressional session. He threatened *not* to reintroduce the bill in January if it failed, and said he doubted that anyone else would. "If we don't get it this trip," he said, "it will be five or 10 or 20 years before anyone tries it again."

While not out, the bill is certainly down. To pass Congress and go to President Reagan for his signature, the differences in the House and Senate versions must be worked out in a conference committee made up of key senators and representatives. This committee began meeting in mid-September, and at press time had made progress in resolving some issues (e.g., it eliminated the Senate bill's requirement for a resident-verification system within three years; but also decided to include criminal penalties of up to six months in prison for employers who make a practice of hiring illegals). Whether a compromise bill will clear Congress before its session ends remains very uncertain. □

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

If you sometimes wonder whether we've made progress, consider this: Back in 1910, U.S. life expectancy was 50 years; in 1984 it's now first-magnitude stars (Shirley MacLaine, Paul Newman, Joan Collins, Sean Connery) who are 50 or over. Something about this trend is reassuring...

—Art Haupt

SURVEY REPORT

Mauritania

Mauritania, a country in northwest Africa with a population of about 1.8 million, conducted a World Fertility Survey in 1981. Somewhat smaller than Alaska, Mauritania consists primarily of arid and semiarid desert, except for a narrow band of fertile soil along the southern border on the Senegal River. The majority of the population live on subsistence agriculture, supplemented by occasional wage labor and food aid from abroad. High-grade iron ore provides most export income.

The survey found that Mauritanian women typically have large numbers of children; on average, 7.7 lifetime births per married woman. This relatively high level of fertility is in part due to very low use of family planning and the desire for many children. About 9 percent of the women surveyed had heard about some form of family planning and only 1 percent had ever used it; current use was not significant and was not reported.

Survey results give 9.2 children as the average number desired, a number which does decline as the woman's education increases. But only 3.6 percent of the women had attended school for more than six years and only 21 percent were literate. Still, even those women with six or more years schooling desired 6.5 children.

High infant and child mortality is also prevalent in Mauritania. About 20 percent of the children ever born to the women surveyed had died, while the women aged 45-50 had lost about one in four.

Thus, with a strong tradition of large families and no stated government policy, Mauritania is likely to experience a long period of additional growth; future rates of increase could, of course, be more rapid than today as life expectancy rises (it is currently 43 years) and death rates slowly decrease. □

WFS Finishes Its Work

The World Fertility Survey program, after 12 years of operation by the International Statistical Institute, terminated on June 30. First Reports from 39 developing country surveys have been published, with two more due out by the end of 1984.

ISI/WFS presence at the London offices will continue in two areas: The Archive will continue to function at its present location until the end of the year, and the Publications Programme will produce a number of reports before the end of 1984.

WFS publications will continue to be distributed through the Permanent Office of the International Statistical Institute in Voorburg, the Netherlands. □

Malaysia Wants Population Increase

Reversing a policy of nearly 20 years standing, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad of Malaysia has declared that his country needs a much larger population to act as a home market and thus stimulate the national economy.

In addition, the country's present labor shortage is hampering development efforts, according to the Prime Minister. At present, Malaysia does, in fact "import" workers from other countries (see related article on Indonesia , p. 5). Mohammad said that a goal of 70 million population would be appropriate for Malaysia, up from 15 million today. To put this in some perspective, the frequently cited World Bank projections show an ultimately stabilized population size of about 33 million, assuming that fertility falls to the "two-child family" by 2005.

It is noteworthy that Malaysia, classed as an "upper middle income" country by the World Bank has, at present, only a moderate level of fertility for a developing country, 4.4 children per woman, and that the government had initiated a goal to reduce the rate of growth to 2.0 percent by 1985.

The government is now concerned, however, that changes in social values and a too rapid spread of family planning may thwart efforts to maintain population growth. □

Merrick Named PRB President

Thomas W. Merrick became the new President of the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., on Sept. 1. Earlier this year, Robert P. Worrall, PRB President since 1979, had indicated his intention to step down to become a senior consultant.

Merrick, chosen by PRB's Board of Trustees, had been Georgetown University's Center for Population and Research since 1978. He is the first demographer to serve as President of PRB in its 55-year history. Prior to joining the Center, which is part of the Kennedy Institution of Ethics, he served as population adviser to the Ford Foundation in Brazil and as a demographer-economist in the Office of Population at the Agency for International Development. He holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and has served in a variety of consultative posts to international agencies in the population field, including the World Bank, the Agency for International Development, and the United Nations. He was Secretary/Treasurer of the Population Association of America from 1978 to 1981, and has served on PRB's Advisory Committee from 1977 to 1979 and its Board of Trustees since 1979. □

PRB's Annual Dinner To Be Held Oct. 18

Lester Brown will preview the Worldwatch Institute's State of the World—1985 Report at the 55th Anniversary PRB Awards Dinner, Thursday, October 18 at the University Club, Washington, D.C., beginning at 6:30 p.m. PRB's annual awards for outstanding service will be presented and new Honorary Fellows inducted. For ticket information call Norma Mitchell at (202) 785-4664 or write Awards Dinner, PRB, 2213 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037.

Paul Demeny to Head PAA

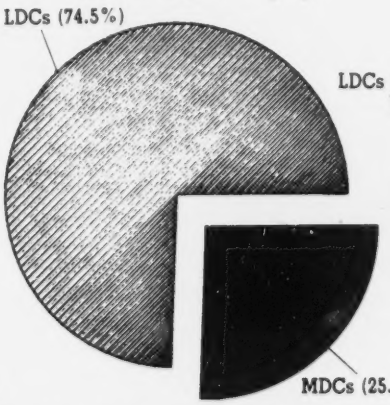
Paul Demeny has been elected President Elect of the Population Association of America.

Demeny, Population Council Vice President, will serve as President Elect during 1985 and become President in 1986. (In keeping with PAA's practice of electing its chief executives nearly two years in advance, Demeny follows Jane Menken of Princeton University, who is now President Elect and will succeed Samuel H. Preston, the current President, in 1985.)

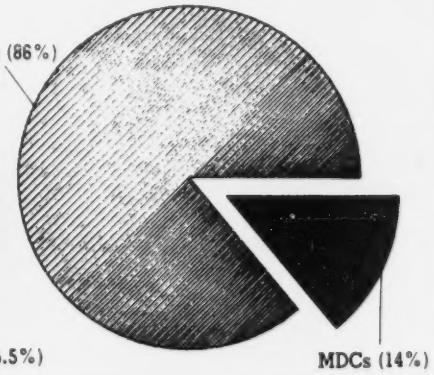
In other results of the PAA elections, conducted by mail during the summer and announced in August: Harriet B. Presser was elected First Vice President and Ronald R. Rindfuss, Second Vice President. Ann Miller, Julie DaVanzo, and T. Paul Schultz were elected to the Nominating Committee; Charles B. Nam, to the Publications Committee; and Andrew Cherlin, Michael S. Teitelbaum, Marta Tienda, and J. Richard Udry, to the Board of Directors. Terms begin Jan. 1, 1985. □

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY . . .

Population of MDCs and LDCs, 1980 (1980 UN Med. var. proj.)



Population of MDCs and LDCs, 2100 (1980 UN med. var. proj.)



The venerable pie chart often presents data in more dramatic fashion than other methods. Here we see two charts of world population, split into two groups: the more developed countries (MDCs) and the less developed countries (LDCs) as defined by the UN. The MDCs consist of Europe, the USSR, North America (Bermuda, Canada, Greenland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, and the U.S.), Australia, Japan, and New Zealand; the LDCs are everyone else. UN projections indicate that today's MDCs will see their share of total population drop from about one-fourth to less than 15 percent by 2100. This brings up another interesting question: by 2100, how many LDCs will be "less" developed, and less developed than whom? However, right now the per capita GNP gap is substantial—$9,190 (MDCs) vs. $750 (LDCs), as of 1983.

Demography, in Policy Change, Broadens Editorial Scope

Demography, the scholarly journal of PAA, has announced a broader editorial policy of welcoming "articles . . . of general interest to scholars of population policy" including "contributions from persons in all social science disciplines, whose work is related to the study of human populations." These articles "can be either technical or nontechnical in orientation," said Ann Miller, *Demography*'s new editor. Earlier, at the PAA meeting in May 1984, she had indicated that a change was coming.

She made the announcement with the endorsement of previous editors, and in response to a rising concern in the field that demographic scholarly articles may be getting excessively technical and narrowly focused, in contrast to the days before massive computerized analysis became commonplace. This view was expressed most recently in a Ford Foundation report written by Jack Caldwell and Pat Caldwell of the Australian National University, who asserted that university population programs had developed "premature hardening of the arteries" and recommended more effort be given to basic LDC population research, rather than statistical exercises. □

DEMOGRAPHER'S

A Demographer Looks at the 1984 Olympic Games

by Leon F. Bouvier

The 1984 Summer Olympic Games are history. That they were a success cannot be questioned—however success is defined.

Nevertheless, many controversies erupted. Some, like the Mary Decker-Zola Budd collison, do not fall within the realm of demography. One, however, does. During the Games, the young men and women of the U.S. gained more medals than had ever been won by any nation before, including the USSR in the U.S.-boycotted 1980 Games. Many countries were heard to complain, though, that their athletes received too little media recognition for their achievements. So, as so many times in the past, demography must come to the rescue and try to settle the question: What nation did in fact win the 1984 Olympic Games?

On the face of it, the U.S. won. Their 174 medals far surpassed those won by any other country. Indeed, the U.S. won more medals than the next three countries combined. But everything being equal, the U.S. would be expected to win more medals than Iceland because the U.S. population is one thousand times larger! And, as a well-known business economist constantly points out, the more people there are, the more geniuses there will be, and presumably, the more talented athletes.

To better determine "who won the Olympic Games," demographers can turn to their battery of statistical tools. The basic fertility indicator, for example, is the total number of births—how many births occurred in a specific year in a specific country. India has more births than any other country in the world, including China (which has more people) and of course, than Iceland (which has considerably fewer people!)

Similarly, the U.S. had more Olympic medals than any other country, including China, which won 32, and Iceland, which received but one.

"The Crude Medal Rate"

But demographers can develop better indicators of success than simply counting medals or births. When measuring fertility, the crude birth rate serves as a better, though still "crude," indicator of differentials between nations. Thus India's crude birth rate is higher than China's and it has more births despite having a smaller population. A similar crude rate can be applied to the Olympic Games—a "crude Olympic medal rate."

Of the 140 countries who participated in the 1984 Games, 47 received at least one medal. Of the 687 medals awarded, 514 (or 75 percent) were divided among 10 nations all of whom earned at least 24. To arrive at a reasonable "crude Olympic medal" rate, this analysis is limited to those 10 nations. As a batter in professional baseball must come to bat a certain number of times to qualify for consideration as a leading hitter, so too a nation should win a noticeable number of medals to qualify as the nation with the highest "crude Olympic medal" rate.

Table 1:
Crude Olympic Medal Rate

Country	No. medals	Population (in millions) (mid-1984)	Rate (per million)
Romania	53	22.7	2.37
Canada	44	25.1	1.75
Australia	24	15.5	1.55
W. Germany	59	61.4	0.96
United States	174	236.3	0.74
Great Britain	37	56.5	0.66
Italy	32	57.0	0.56
France	27	54.8	0.49
Japan	32	119.9	0.27
China	32	1034.5	0.03

The clear winner, according to these measures, is Romania with a rate of 2.37 medals per 1 million population (see Table 1). Both Canada and Australia performed very well. The U.S., while first in number of medals, ranks fifth in the Crude Olympic Medal Rate—0.74 per million. Put another way, the U.S. would have had to win 560 medals to match Romania's rate. As might be expected, China is low among the top 10 nations. Its rate (0.03) illustrates how hard it is for an extremely populous nation to achieve a high rate when compared to a moderately sized nation.

Thus this measure, while superior to a simple count of medals, is still far from acceptable if one is trying to determine "who won the Olympic Games." This measure "controls" for differences in population size between nations but it remains, as its name states, "crude."

The crude birth rate is "crude" because the denominator in the equation includes the entire population— males as well as females; young and old. A "pure" rate should include in its denominator only those individuals capable of performing what is included in the numerator. The general fertility rate has been devised for that reason. The numerator remains the total births in a given year, but the denominator is limited to females in their reproductive ages, that is, capable of bearing a birth.

Similarly, not all people in a nation are capable of performing in the Olympic Games. In the U.S. for

Leon F. Bouvier is Senior Research Associate at PRB.

Table 2:
Country Participation Rates

Country	No. participants	Population in millions	Rate (per million)
Australia	341	15.5	22.0
Canada	483	25.1	19.2
West Germany	444	61.4	7.2
Great Britain	363	56.5	6.4
Italy	338	57.0	5.9
Romania	127	22.7	5.6
France	265	54.8	4.8
United States	622	236.3	2.6
Japan	263	119.9	2.2
China	227	1034.5	0.2

example, very few demographers would qualify, however qualifications are measured. (An exception to this generalization might be certain jogging demographers from Austin and Ann Arbor.)

Quantifying Commitment

To win an Olympic medal, one must be sent by his or her country in the first place. The number of athletes a country sends depends on many factors: economic development or financial capacity of the nation; governmental motivation to support athletes; geographic proximity to the Games' site. The U.S. was financially able to send large numbers of athletes to Los Angeles, Calif. Bolivia, on the other hand, nearly 4,000 miles away, almost withdrew for financial (as well as other) reasons. Eastern bloc countries such as China and Romania seem to be particularly committed to developing and supporting Olympic-caliber athletes. In sum, the number of participants from any given country will vary independently of that country's size. Developing an "Olympic Game Participation Rate" allows us to determine the commitment of a country to the games as defined by the number of athletes per million population (see Table 2). As the data in Table 2 show, of the top 10 medal-winning nations Australia had the highest participation rate (22.0) followed by Canada (19.2). At the other extreme were the U.S., Japan, and China. Obviously, population size is not related to participation in the games.

Perhaps the most refined of all measures would be a "General Olympic Medal Rate," the number of medals per 1,000 entrants from a country (see Table 3). Using this measure, Romania again comes out on top with a rate of 417.3 per 1,000 participants. Its 127 participants received a total of 53 medals. Table 3 lists the top 10 nations ranked by their General Olympic Medal Rate. The United States has the second highest general rate—279.7. At the bottom of the list are the two countries which had the highest participation rates: Canada and Australia.

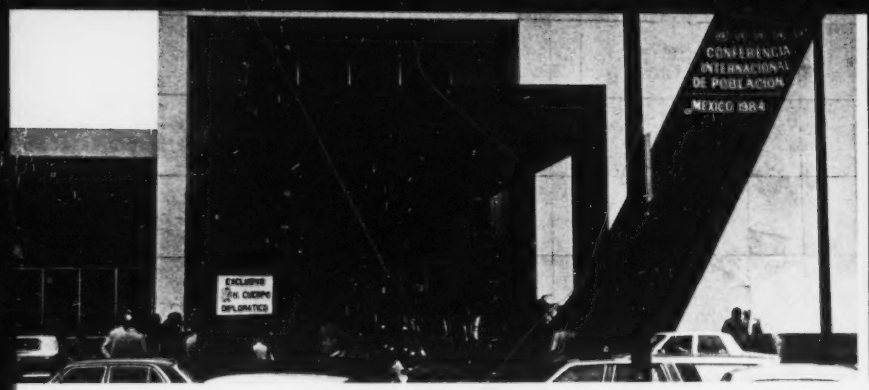
None of these measures is perfect. Many factors are not considered. For example all medals do not go to individuals. The China women's volleyball team received one medal; so did the winner of the high jump. Only total medals are considered here, with no differentiation among gold, silver, and bronze. All countries did not necessarily participate in all sports. Some may have selected specific areas of strength. There were 23 sports in all, including two demonstration sports (baseball and tennis) for which no medals were awarded. Both the U.S. and West Germany competed in all 23 sports; Italy 22, Canada 21, and Great Britain and Japan 20. On the other hand, Romania participated in only 13 sports, China 17. In attempting to determine a winner, all these factors would have to be considered.

What nation won the Olympic Games? The U.S. had the most medals. Romania ranked first in both the Crude Olympic Medal Rate and the General Olympic Medal Rate. If a country's participation in the Games is as important as winning, then Australia should be considered too.

The true, correct answer is, properly, *none*. Unfortunately, this Olympic truth is often forgotten in the rush to use the Games as a surrogate for the conflict and competition between nations. But no nation won the 1984 Olympic Games or any other Olympic Games. Individuals or teams, competing as friendly adversaries, won. That, not international oneupsmanship, is what the Olympics are all about. □

Table 3.
General Olympic Medal Rates

Country	No. participants	Medals	Rates (per million)
Romania	127	53	417.3
United States	622	174	279.7
China	227	32	141.0
West Germany	444	59	132.9
Japan	263	32	121.6
Great Britain	363	37	101.9
France	265	27	101.8
Italy	330	32	94.7
Canada	483	44	91.1
Australia	341	24	70.4



Secretariat of Foreign Affairs.

Delegates.

International Conference

Continued from Page 2

coherent policy governing migration of Mexicans between Mexico and other, unnamed countries.

Then the buses were loaded up and the conferees were transported to the Secretariat of Foreign Relations, a modern office complex far from downtown in the Plaza of the Three Cultures, and a crowded site that the 3,000 Conference participants would get all too familiar with during the week. With TV lights anointing the proceedings, every seat filled, simultaneous translation piped in over earphones, Rafael M. Salas, director of the UN Fund for Population Activities, launched the proceedings ("I declare open the first meeting of the International Conference on Population"). He then turned the meeting over to the Conference's president by acclamation, Manuel Bartlett Diaz, Mexico's minister of the interior.

The Mexico conference was divided into two parts: the plenary (imagine a podium, then a floor the size of a convention hall full of desks, chairs, and name plaques for some 140-odd delegations, plus press, flags, and NGO people packed in back) was the principal deliberating body, but in practice it served mainly as a forum for statements from the delegations of the world--some 131 nations would address it during the week.

The central business of the meeting--finishing work on and approving Recommendations for the Further Implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (the official title)--was delegated to the Main Committee, a slightly smaller enclave under the gavel of Dr. Fred T. Sai.

Monday night President de la Madrid held a reception for the conferees on a military reservation in the city. While lavish receptions and dinners sound great, in practice they become one more venue of diplomatic and journalistic work--making contacts, sharing data, being "diplomatic," squinting at name tags, watching the halo of portable TV lights follow the President and Queen Nur of Jordan through the crowd.

TUESDAY, AUG. 7: A.W. Clausen, President of the World Bank, entered the growth is good/neutral/bad debate, telling the Conference "the evidence is overwhelming that rapid population growth impedes efforts to raise living standards in most of the developing world." He pledged the Bank's efforts to aid both development and family planning ("We've all reached the conclusion that this [split between the two kinds of programs] is a false dichotomy"). And echoing the Bank's 1984 World Development Report, he asserted that "population assistance could usefully triple, or even quadruple, between now and the end of the century."

The U.S. chose this day to introduce a Recommendations amendment praising a "free economic environment" as a boon to lowering fertility and improving the quality of life. Amb. Buckley told the press that "what's new about the American position is our view on economics." Other delegations indicated that if free enterprise were given a plug in the Recommendations, they wanted their philosophies represented as well. The U.S. was asked to come back with specific wording, and this issue became one of several controversies set spinning by the U.S. which were to be batted about by all parties during the rest of the week.

While the Conference was conducting its business in and out of the meeting halls, so were reporters, the meeting staff, and security people -- and members of NGOs. Although Mexico City was strictly speaking an intergovernmental meeting, population-related NGO groups could attend in an observer status. NGOers were highly visible, trolling the corridors, buttonholing delegates and acquaintances, holding their own briefing sessions every morning in an adjoining building. In addition, they could address the plenary meeting, and some 16 NGO groups did so, including the National Audubon Society and the Population Council. The Population Institute, meanwhile, was busy on several fronts, holding a Strategic Planning Seminar, sponsoring scores of young journalists, down from the U.S. to cover the Conference scene, and holding its media awards dinner in cooperation with Televisa of Mexico.

Tuesday night Dr. Salas hosted a generous buffet dinner for a thousand or so participants at the Hacienda de los Morales restaurant.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 8: When the U.S.'s turn came to address the plenary, Amb. Buckley, speaking to a jammed conference hall, reiterated that U.S. population assistance policy would henceforth deny funds to private nongovernmental organizations that "perform or actively promote" abortion. Reaction to the speech was mixed, with a number of delegations commenting on the irony of the U.S.'s policy change 10 years after Bucharest, when it had been in the vanguard of the nations promoting family planning to a then-ambivalent Third World.

At a news conference earlier, Buckley had said that aid denied any organization would be redirected to other organizations for family planning. The new U.S. position, he said, decried "the Malthusian analysis of gloom, doom, and global scarcity" which ignored the progress made during the previous 10 years.

Similar new language for the Recommendations was soon proposed by the U.S. in the Main Committee. It asserted that "in the developing countries in the last 30 years total fertility rates have fallen on average more than halfway toward a goal of population stability." It went on to say that life expectancy has "dramatically increased, caloric intake per capita has improved, literacy rates have significantly increased, disease has diminished and health care improved, and per capita income has grown substantially."

Opening Day.

Rafael M. Salas.

While acknowledging that in a number of countries there has been little reduction in fertility, and "much remains to be done and problems abound," the statement concluded by noting "the enormous progress that the people of the world and community of nations have already made" and urged more.

Charming, eloquent, and an earnest apologist for the new, iconoclastic U.S. policy, Buckley was the unchallenged star of the delegates (with Fred Sai probably the overall conference star). The press and the NGOers followed or reacted to his every pronouncement—perhaps most memorably, Sharon Camp of the Population Crisis Committee referring to the U.S. population views as "voodoo demographics."

To a considerable extent the U.S. delegation—whose chief spokesmen were Buckley, Amb. Alan Keyes, and staff assistant Terry Miller—seemed to be able to choose the areas of debate at will. Two different styles of diplomacy seemed to be operating in Mexico City. On the one hand was the U.S. delegation, assertive, flamboyantly rhetorical, dramatically presenting new language, repeatedly emphasizing the gravity with which it took the business of the Conference, reaching for every arrow in the parliamentary quiver. On the other hand was everyone else, who on all issues except Israel (a major exception) tended to fall into a rhythm of low-key statements and responses. The Soviet delegation (three Soviet delegations, actually— check your UN history) was not a significant force at the Conference, being mainly interested in promoting its disarmament paragraph (opposed by the U.S. as being an extraneous propaganda ploy) and in displaying conspicuous solidarity with the world's "progressive" forces.

The open secret of international meetings, including this one, is that anyone can just pick up his or her marbles and go home, and a great deal of effort goes into keeping people from being even tempted to exercise that fatal option. To hold-on to their audience, the participants painfully stitch together a conclusion that no one will object to. Consensus—the obsession of such meetings—is like stitching together a tent before a looming rainstorm. One tries to make it as capacious as possible, while encouraging all assembled to scrunch under it as snugly as possible. With luck, no one gets wet.

THURSDAY, AUG. 9: The Chinese delegation held a press conference to answer questions about their population policies. Public relations chief of the state family planning program, Shen Guoxing commented on the erstwhile two-child family policy: "It was a great achievement but it cannot be said it was a great success." Of the one-child family, first advocated by the government in 1979, he said it represented "the policy of a certain historical period. It is only a response to the expected baby boom of future years. We expect it will last 20-30 years."

He denied press reports of family planning coercion, commented that abortion rates in China were comparable to U.S. rates, and said that despite reports of female infanticide, the sex ratio of early age groups was within normal range. Regarding the famous experimental male contraceptive gossypol, pioneered in China, "there are certain issues to be solved . . . [it is] not used widely."

Besides China, various other countries brought up a variety of issues during the week:

The necessity for improving the role and status of women was mentioned by nearly every delegation, with the result that it was promoted into a separate section: ". . . The following recommendations take into account the need for actions to ensure that women can effectively exercise rights equal to those of men in all spheres of economic, social, cultural and political life, and in particular those rights which pertain most directly to population concerns."

High international interest rates drew many complaints from the LDC delegations. *Migration* did not come up often and was generally given kid glove treatment when it did—e.g., an emphasis on the rights of migrants. *Abortion* remained a touchy issue, mainly in deference to the U.S.'s well-known opposition, and stayed in the background. The U.S. did not introduce recommendation language, but the Holy See (Vatican) did, proposing that "abortion should not be a method of family planning." In the final Recommendations this became "governments are urged to take appropriate steps to help women avoid abortion, which in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning." Abortion as a backup to contraceptive failure was not mentioned.

China and India, accused in the past of having *coercion* in their family planning programs, categorically denied it. Pakistan and India clashed briefly over the disputed state of *Kashmir*. Afghanistan asserted that Pakistan grossly exaggerated the size of its *Afghan refugee population* (usually estimated at 2 million) so as to obtain more foreign assistance.

In their plenary statements, a number of countries alluded to their *national population growth goals:* India, a 1.2 percent growth rate by 2000; Lesotho, down to 2 percent; Malaysia, 2 percent by 1985; Mexico, 1 percent by 2000; Turkey, 1.76 percent by 2000. Tonga's delegate said the country hoped to alleviate its population pressures through emigration; Haiti pledged to restrain its emigration.

"A new international order" (a catchphrase for sharing wealth between North and South) and *"the sovereign rights of nations"* (which might be paraphrased as "the nation is always right") were two phrases constantly heard during the week.

FRIDAY, AUG. 10: By evening the last country and NGO had addressed the plenary, and the Main Committee had completed all its easy work and was

A representative.

The plenary.

Fred T. Sai.

facing the hard part. A particular problem was Recommendation 34, prohibiting governments from making forcible population transfers to or from territories they occupy. Because it also denounced the establishment of permanent settlements in occupied territories, the U.S. and Israel took the recommendation to be a reference to Israel's West Bank settlements and drew the line against it. Arab states and others supported it uncompromisingly.

On Friday as well, Ben Wattenberg of the U.S. delegation gave a press conference, and argued that contrary to what some might think, the U.S. policy was in the mainstream of population thinking; that "we are not denigrating or diminishing those problems" caused by poverty and population growth and were not pushing for an "either/or" policy of development over family planning—"we're for both."

Wattenberg's presence on the delegation gave it a more diverse base; in a sense, he and Buckley made something analogous to a "good-cop-bad-cop" team, with Buckley the more fervent (e.g., extolling free enterprise) and Wattenberg the more moderate and equable (e.g., volunteering that the U.S., like most nations, ran on a mixed economy). While the population writings of Julian L. Simon were clearly an influence on the new U.S. policy, Simon himself went to Mexico City as a journalist and—as one U.S. delegate took pains to point out—was not a member of the U.S. delegation.

SATURDAY, AUG. 11: As debate dragged on in extra hours in the Main Committee, civility and patience began fraying; at one point, the U.S.'s Amb. Keyes weighed in with dialogue from *A Man for All Seasons* to support the U.S. position. At another point, Dr. Sai told the venerable joke about the engineer, the doctor, and the lawyer ("Who do you think created Chaos?" rasped the lawyer). Mainly, Sai did a commanding job of holding together an increasingly irritated hallful of diplomats and gavelling through recalcitrant paragraphs. ("...With that, ladies and gentlemen, 29 is before you for adoption. [BANG!] Adopted.") Paragraph 34 continued to defy compromise, consultation, and redrafting, and was suspended until later.

That afternoon, Amb. Buckley announced that the UNFPA's Salas had given the U.S. written assurance that the Fund did not support abortion or coercive family planning, and that the U.S. was releasing the second half of funding for 1984—$19 million—which had previously been held up. This occurred a few minutes before a delegation of six U.S. Representatives arrived in Mexico City to hold a press conference and advise delegates that the Reagan Administration's announcement of a policy did not mean that Congress would acquiesce. "Almost every person on the planet thinks that population growth is a problem," said Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.).

For many population people, the crucial issue was whether the U.S. would continue its support of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The U.S. currently gives IPPF some $13 million annually in general support, but a small portion of IPPF's funding from other sources goes to abortion-related activities, and the new U.S. policy forbids aid to private international organizations which "perform or actively promote abortion in other nations." As of press time AID had not yet issued final guidelines or announced funding cutoffs for any group.

SUNDAY, AUG. 12: On TV the Los Angeles Olympics, which had been proceeding all during the Conference, were in their final day. Delegates could glimpse the men's marathon and the lavish closing ceremonies, but most of the Main Committee's day was spent debating the U.S. resolution about how much population progress had actually been made during the past 30 years.

Sweden's delegation objected. A "fallacy of averages... One gets a rosy picture that does not conform to reality." The Ukrainian SSR and Senegal supported Sweden, arguing that "a 30-years view doesn't give a clear picture"—a 10-year one would show the difference between Bucharest and Mexico City.

Switzerland supported the U.S. proposal. Australia and Brazil thought there was room in the document for some such statement. Japan, Argentina, Spain, and West Germany thought it was OK provided some modifications were made.

The U.S. (Wattenberg) told the Committee that by using 30 years it "wasn't trying to skew" the averages, and would be happy to change the time span. This debate was tabled while U.S. and other conferees went out to redraft the language.

As revised, the statement on fertility was more modest: "since Bucharest fertility has declined significantly in many developing countries." The other positive statements had also been scaled down; per capita income had grown "moderately"; "enormous progress" was now simply "progress."

The negative statements had grown: "In countries representing at least one third of the population of the developing world, fertility has not declined significantly... The absolute number of people in need is still very great in many countries and significant disparities in access to services still exist, complicated by uneven population distribution."

This revision met with less than enthusiastic response, with complaints about the hastiness of the draft. "Too many ideas in 15 lines," said Mexico. Some wondered whether other parts of the Recommendations might not already make a sufficient assessment. Delegates in committee chased the progress issue around at some length, alternatively of the mind that some sort of encouraging statement should appear, but the proposed language was not it; or feeling that, as the USSR put it, "this meeting is not a delebration" and any self-

James Buckley.

In the Main Committee.

congratulatory statement was out of place. The Tanzanian delegate commented that the statement was "a vision of hope, a vision of success. I wonder if it's the correct vision."

(At one point a UN specialist was summoned in to answer delegates' questions as to what percentage of LDCs had experienced significant fertility decline. The unsurprising answer: it depends on what percentage threshold is considered significant.)

Ultimately, the progress debate was carried over until—

MONDAY, AUG. 13: Dr. Sai summed it up: While there was a need to be upbeat about population, it was also necessary to show when no progress or even retrograde movement had occurred.

Many countries expressed considerably more ire about the proposed statement of economic optimism than they did about the demographic one. Brazil said that per capita income experienced rapid growth in 1970-1974 but from 1980 to the present it had probably dropped. (Brazil felt so strongly about this issue that it proposed dropping the entire paragraph rather than include any statement about per capita income improvement.) Spain called the demographics of the period more optimistic than the economics.

Norway, which said it had no strong feelings about the language ("no harm done") proposed "considerable" instead of "enormous" progress, with the proviso that "there is still a strong need for continuation and acceleration" in efforts to achieve the World Population Plan of Action.

Nothing new here, commented the USSR, which argued (as did other countries) that similar language already existed in a general way, in the preamble's second paragraph. Dr. Sai suggested that with the Committee's permission, the Secretariat staff would write into that paragraph the sense of what had been discussed this afternoon. This proved agreeable (BANG!), and when the final Recommendations were published the next day, this was how the consensus on the world's population progress ended up:

In many developing countries the demographic situation has improved since 1974; fertility has declined, morbidity has diminished, infant mortality has declined and life expectancy has increased. There have also been improvements in the social sphere. In many developing countries school enrollment and literacy rates have increased, and access to health services has improved. For the developing countries as a whole, there has been an increase in per capita calorie supply, though in some regions, such as Africa, per capita calorie supply has not improved. Economic trends have, however, been less encouraging. Although per capita income did not grow as rapidly since 1974 as in the previous 10 years, it was none the less true that per capita income did grow moderately in a number of developing countries during that period. During the latter part of the decade, however, many developing countries experienced little or no growth in per capita income, and many experienced actual decline in per capita income with the result that the gap between the per capita incomes of many developed and most developing countries widened during the period... Though the community of nations has made considerable progress in the pursuit of goals of the World Population Plan of Action, there is still a great need for continuation and acceleration in these efforts to realize those goals...

As for the recommendation on free enterprise, which the U.S. had doggedly pushed throughout the week, it modestly wound up as "where appropriate, entrepreneurial initiatives."

But the Committee and the Conference were not yet through. The most dramatic debates were yet to come. They concerned, however, not population per se but Middle East politics, and they were concentrated on Recommendation 34 (condemning settlements in occupied lands), approval of which had been postponed until the end.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived Monday morning to address the plenary. He and a group of delegates met behind the scenes on the recommendation and came up with compromise language to present to the body, which softened the language to the extent of reducing the settlements reference to a phrase ("including establishing any settlements") instead of a lengthy sentence. After receiving instructions from Washington, the U.S. delegation rejected this compromise, even though it had helped to frame it. Reading off a list of world atrocities involving population relocation—Afghanistan, the Baltic states, Cambodia—Amb. Buckley said in effect that it was unfair to single out one special situation, that of Israeli settlements. He also questioned the body's competence to interpret the Geneva Convention, invoked in the paragraph.

Several hours of intense parliamentary wrangling ensued. Was the assembly competent to put in such a statement? By roll-call vote, it decided that it was (52 yeas, 3 nays, 53 abstentions). Should those four words be struck? (3 yeas, 53 nays, 35 abstentions). The consensus on the compromise paragraph thus collapsed, and the Committee simply returned to the old, harsher language of Recommendation 34 (83 yeas, 3 nays, 15 abstentions). With that, the 54-hour work of the Main Committee—refining the Recommendations for approval by the plenary—was over.

Afternoon traffic.

A local.

Before the end, Buckley apologized for the "misjudgment" and political inexperience of the U.S. delegation at the UN preparatory meeting in acquiescing to the settlements language in the first place—although to have one diplomat apologize for the personal actions of a colleague is considered most unusual, and Buckley reportedly made the statement without State Dept. authorization. According to observers at the March 1984 prep com, the U.S. delegation there concurred (as did Israel) with the proposed occupied-territories language not because they didn't recognize the reference but because the language was safely general (it did not mention any countries and had wide potential application) and they feared debate might make it more specific. Months passed before the settlements paragraph became an issue within the U.S. Government.

TUESDAY, AUG. 14: The extra, final day of the International Population Conference was in many ways a replay of Monday's wrangles. The main question was whether the U.S. would (a) vote for the Recommendations as a whole, expressing its reservations on the side; (b) vote for the Recommendations excepting the one regarding occupied territories (now renumbered 36); (c) vote against the Recommendations as a whole as a protest against 36; or (d) question the Conference's competency to make such a recommendation. After some suspense, the U.S. finally opted for (d) and (b), in that order. (The *New York Times* later reported that Buckley had requested White House permission to abstain on the Conference's final document, but was told to participate in the consensus.) A wave of applause and relief swept through the Sala Juarez, as delegates realized that the occupied lands problem had at last been solved, that the conference was going to succeed in producing a document, and that the end was in sight. The recommendation condemning settlements was approved with the U.S. and Israel voting nay; the rest of the 88-recommendation document was approved by consensus.

With drafting completed by the General Committee, the Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development was also approved unanimously by the conference. This brief document, drafted by a 29-member steering body, was mainly a call to arms, without the prickly details of the Recommendations. It noted that population growth has declined as a rate but increased in terms of sheer numbers, and that for many countries the last decade was a time of economic instability and poverty. It called for renewed efforts to ensure couples the basic right proclaimed at Bucharest to decide the number and spacing of their children. It emphasized "the inextricable links between population, resources, environment, and development."

With the Recommendations (the nitty-gritty) and the Declaration (the call to arms), the work of the International Conference on Population was done, the officers were thanked and President Bartlett Diaz adjourned the Conference on Tuesday night, one day behind schedule. The assembly, press, and hard-worked UN staff stumbled out of the Sala Juarez for a celebratory round of cocktails. The delegates had done it. They had come to Mexico City, survived a week of parliamentary dispute and produced a successful document. Perhaps most important, the meeting had proved itself. It had been like a reunion of old friends who have not seen each other in some years. Beforehand, they may not have felt particularly motivated to attend, but afterward they are really glad they did it—the reasons were there all along.

Further, thanks largely to the U.S.'s heretical approach to population and its efforts to promote its own views, the whole question of "Why population programs?" became perhaps more controversial than ever before and was refought and rethought in the world's press—rather like the renewed furor over the theory of evolution that suddenly erupted in the U.S. in the late 1970s. Suffice it to say, that for the $2.3 million cost of the Conference, the population field got a billion dollars worth of free publicity.

What practical effect will the Recommendations have during the next decade? They are, of course, totally nonbinding. But they do represent a world consensus on population. And, in the process of meeting to agree on these Recommendations, the cross-fertilization of so many population people in one place cannot help but have a beneficial influence. As one participant put it, looking out over the room of delegates, "The population field has come of age."

Outside the Foreign Affairs building all this time, Mexico City continued to bustle along through thunderstorms, cool weather, and oppressive smog, itself a microcosm of both population problems and development potential. Despite a population of some 16 million people, the city is far from a hopeless mess, but increasingly intractable urban problems abound: the 4 million honking cars, the coal-like exhaust smell of 8,000 buses, the 40 percent underemployed, including a highly visible generation of street people shining shoes and eating fire for a few pesos—and 300,000 new in-migrants a year. How Mexico City fares during the next 30 years will provide a good clue as to how the world will handle its increasing population. Only time will tell if the army of diplomats, officials, and kibitzers who convened during August will ultimately affect the fate of the city where they met. □

—Mexico City report and photography by Art Haupt

WORLD FOOD NEWS

West Africa as a whole seems to be recovering from the recent African drought, but most of Southern Africa has experienced a third year of "disastrous" harvests, according to Director Edouard Saouma of the FAO. And about 1.3 million tons of food aid will be needed in that subregion in 1984-1985.

Speaking to the UN Economic and Social Council, Saouma said the basic problem for agriculture in Africa is not population size as such. "Indeed, most countries of the region could, if they applied a high level of technology, in due course feed a population many times larger than any now in prospect," he argued. "The difficulty comes, quite simply, from the speed with which the number of new mouths to be fed is mounting up. Population growth of 3 percent a year, ranging up to 4 percent in some countries, presents an extraordinary challenge to the entire national food system." In addition, growth of urban areas adds to the national food deficits. Sub-Saharan African countries are now spending about one-quarter of their earnings from exports of agricultural and like products on cereal imports. □

World Food News is prepared by the North American Liaison Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Precarious Art of The Global Possible

In May, 75 world leaders in government, industry, science, agriculture, energy, and environmental studies gathered in Queenstown, Md., to address resource and population problems. The conference, called "The Global Possible: Resources, Development, and the New Century," was convened by the World Resources Institute. It concluded that severe world environment and resource challenges can be met, but only if vigorous new initiatives are pursued worldwide.

Gus Speth, president of WRI, spoke at the conclusion of the three-day meeting of the transitions necessary for a hopeful and sustainable world. These transitions, he said, are demographic, energy, resource, economic, and political.

To deal with global population growth the conference recommended that developing country governments should (a) adopt labor-intensive economic development strategies, (b) expand greatly the educational and employment opportunities available to women, (c) reduce death rates by making basic sanitary services and simple health care widely available, and (d) set and achieve an international goal of doubling access to family planning services in the Third World over the next decade. The goal of these and other recommendations is to achieve an eventual world population of not more than 8 billion.

WRI has published the conference's recommendation in a 40-page booklet, also called "The Global Possible: Resources, Development, and the New Century."

A second report now available, "Improving Environmental Cooperation: The Roles of Multinational Corporations and Developing Countries," urges multinational corporations to recognize their "profound interest" in achieving better environmental protection in developing countries. The panel also recommends that host governments carefully plan and execute environmental regulations to facilitate their complinace. □

Single copies of these reports are free from World Resources Institute, 1735 New York Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. (Multiple copy prices on request.)

Population Update

Estimated United States Population:

As of June 1, 1984	236,454,000
As of June 1, 1983	234,315,000

The above estimates include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 955.

Estimated World Population:

As of October 1984	4,783,000,000
Annual Growth	82,000,000

Estimated by extrapolation of the mid-1984 population given on the 1984 World Population Data Sheet.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: May 1984

	12 months ending with May					
	Number		Rate			
Item	1984	1983	1984	1983	1982	1981
Live births	3,631,000	3,697,000	15.5	15.9	15.9	15.9
Deaths	2,024,000	2,006,000	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.8
Natural increase	1,607,000	1,691,000	6.9	7.3	7.4	7.1
Marriages	2,445,000	2,478,000	10.4	10.7	10.6	10.6
Divorces	1,164,000	1,183,000	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2
Infant deaths	39,000	40,900	10.7	11.1	11.4	12.3
Population base (in millions)			234.7	232.5	230.3	228.2

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births. Rates are based on revised population estimates from the 1980 Census.

Source. Monthly Vital Statistics Report (Vol. 33, No. 5) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Better World Health Would Be a Bargain

In both the developing countries and the richer nations, millions of lives are lost unnecessarily. According to the latest Worldwatch Paper, "Improving World Health: A Least Cost Strategy," by William U. Chandler, a relatively low expenditure could result in improved conditions which could extend the lives of many.

In the Third World, more than 12.5 million children die each year before reaching age 5. It is in this group that the greatest opportunity for low-cost health improvement lies, in the form of primary care. Training and emphasis on primary health care could halve infant mortality rates, Chandler reported.

Family planning services in particular increase the chance of survival of all children. Family planning participation rates jump dramatically when offered with primary health care, according to the report.

Needless to say, the total economic benefits of measures such as vaccinations, oral rehydration, and breastfeeding far exceed their costs. Clean drinking water and sanitary disposal of human waste can also improve health in the Third World.

In contrast, the developed world's premature deaths are often the result of overindulgence. Two-thirds of all deaths in the more developed countries are caused by heart disease and cancer, and "half of all deaths in middle-age due to heart disease and cancer could be prevented. Evidence links these early deaths to tobacco and diet, especially dietary fats and cholesterol," Chandler said. Low-cost educational measures and individual life-style choices could help reduce the incidence of heart disease and cancer.

Copies of Worldwatch Paper 59, "Improving World Health: A Least Cost Strategy," by William U. Chandler, are available from PRB. Single copies are $4.00 each; 2-5 copies, $3.00 each; 6-20 copies, $2.00 each; 21 or more, $1.00 each. Orders and checks (made payable to PRB) should be sent to PRB, P.O. Box 35012, Washington, DC 20013. (PRB assists Worldwatch Institute in the distribution of its papers.)

TAKE A NUMBER . . .

Kenya Dethroned?: Kenya's total fertility rate (TFR) of 8.0 children per woman has, for the past several years, given it the distinction of having the world's highest fertility rate. However, a recent World Fertility Survey has increased the candidate pool and the Yemen Arab Republic may now be on top. In the household portion of that survey, North Yemen's TFR was reported as 8.05 and on the more detailed individual survey, 8.5.

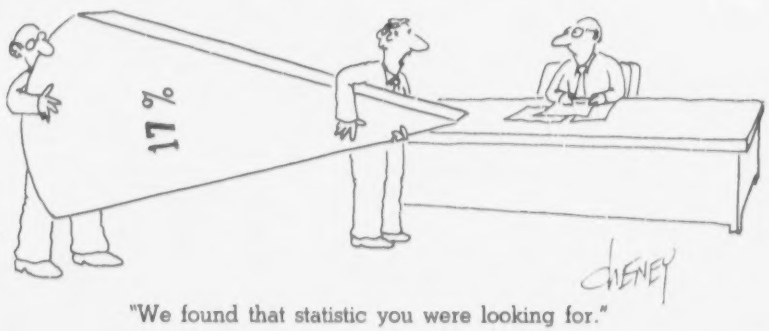
Changing Educational Attainment: The Census Bureau has reported some surprising shifts in educational attainment for U.S. men and women. It seems that the percent of women aged 25-29 completing college has leveled off since 1976 and that of men has actually declined. In 1976, about 21 percent of females 25-29 had completed four or more years of college and this proportion had stabilized at about 20 percent by 1981; for males, the proportion dropped from 28 percent to 23 percent. A lack of demand for college graduates is not the only explanation for the decine in enrollment rates from the early 1970s. More on this interesting facet of the U.S. scene in the next *PT*.

Florida's alligators: They're off the endangered list and in the news, as the alligator population, estimated at over 1 million, is legal game for trappers. 'Gator census techniques still need refinement, but certain facts are known, according to C.L. Abercrombie of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Alligators have high infant mortality with 30 to 70 percent dying in the first year. Females reach sexual maturity in 9-12 years and lay 40-45 eggs at a time, about 30 of which hatch to form a "pod." Once past its perilous infancy, an alligator's life span can be 40 years. While the alligator was considered endangered in Florida until 10 years ago (when it was placed on the "threatened" list), that may only be a result of underestimated numbers in the past. In any event Abercrombie feels that the real problem may be the collision between alligators and the rapidly growing human population in Florida.

The Name Game: The goverment of Upper Volta has announced that the name of the country has been changed to Bourkina Fasso which translates as the "land of incorruptible men." Checking the map, it would appear that this leaves only one remaining geographical inconsistency—Upper Volta had, after all, existed without the seemingly necessary complement of Lower Volta. But the South Sandwich Islands (off South America) are still on the globe. The original Sandwich Islands changed their name long ago to Hawaii. No indication yet that Bourkina Fasso will change its capital's name from Ouagadougou.

addenda . . .

American Demographics drawing copyright 1984 by Tom Cheney; reprinted by permission of the artist.



"We found that statistic you were looking for."

CURRENT READINGS

PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in Current Readings. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 2213 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS, ed. by C. Lanctot, M. Martin, M. Shivanandan, E. Gould, J. Spieler and N. Williamson. Washington, D.C.: IFFLP, 1984. 202 pages. $10.00

This book focuses on natural family planning programs (NFP), their development, characteristics, and needs. It was the product of a Family Health International and AID-supported seminar that was held in conjunction with the Third International Congress of the International Federation for Family Life Promotion (IFFLP), Hong Kong, November, 1983.

The book is designed as a tool and reference for those engaged in, or contemplating developing, NFP programs. The first section of the book describes several dozen NFP programs worldwide. The second section provides an in-depth analysis of program development, training and services, and evaluation. The NFP movement primarily promotes the Billings ovulation (cervical mucus) method and the sympto-thermal method of family planning.

—Alex von Cube

MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON POPULATION AND CONFLICT, ed. by Nazli Choucri. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1984. 220 pages. $13.95. ISBN 0-8156-2315-1.

The common denominator of these essays is that unless the demographic dimensions are recognized, any strategy for resolving political conflicts is doomed to failure. In her essay, Nazli Choucri gives a "national security perspective" on population. She summarizes conditions propitious for conflict, and stresses that the evidence linking conflict and population is not linear but does show an interactive and feedback relationship. Other selections include a review essay on density and crowding by Mark N. Cohen, and Davis Bobrow's essay empnasizing the contextual nature of population pressures; that is, they can only be fully understood in relation to a nation's security objectives, technology, political institutions, etc.

This book of essays, relating population to conflict and written mainly by political scientists, represents a promising attempt to relate population to the political dimension.

—Alex von Cube

THE LAND IS SHRINKING: Population Planning in Asia, by Gayl D. Ness and Hirofumi Ando. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984. 225 pages. $25.00. ISBN 0-8018-2982-8.

A political-ecological perspective is what the authors term their sweeping historical account of the transformation from pronatalist to antinatalist policies in Asian countries in the past 30 years.

The authors set out to remedy the neglect of political and organizational factors in current population analysis. They present a series of logistic curves indicating that Asian populations made the "policy revolution"—transition from pronatalism to antinatalism—considerably earlier than did populations in other regions of high fertility.

—Alex von Cube

INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY, by Norfleet W. Rives, Jr., and William J. Serow. Sage University Paper series: Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences. Beverly Hills, Calif., and London: Sage Publications. 96 pages. $5.00. ISBN 0-8039-2134-9.

The authors define applied demography as, generally speaking, demography that concentrates on measurement and interpretation of current and prospective population change, usually for specific geographic areas, and for purposes of planning and reporting. This is a handy, concise primer that summarizes various fundamentals of particular interest to the field (estimating total populations, household sizes, etc.) and also describes the U.S. Census data base in some detail. A 16-page directory lists state and federal-state data centers and vital statistics offices.

—Arthur Haupt

VITAL RATES IN INDIA: 1961-1981, by P.N. Mari Bhat, Samuel Preston, and Tim Dyson. Washington, D.C.: Committee on Population and Demography, National Academy of Sciences, 1984. 173 pages. $16.50 (Order from National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.)

This report, prepared by the NAS Committee on Population and Demography's Panel on India, describes and analyzes the demographic progress of that country over two decades, a period in which fertility has dropped by more than one child per woman and life expectancy has increased to about 53 years.

Although India recognizes the importance of gathering accurate population figures, included in this report, its authors caution that "performing research on the demography of India can be a humbling experience. . . Demographic scenarios can be very different depending on how one chooses to correct [the data]. We are impressed by the degree to which demographic analysis in India must be a continuing activity of updating and integrating estimates."

—Arthur Haupt

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ABORTION AND THE POLITICS OF MOTHERHOOD, by Kristen Luker. Berkeley: University of Calif. Press, 1984. 324 Pages. $14.95.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF POPULATION LAW 1982 (vol. 9). New York: U.N. Fund for Population Activities, 1984. 433 pages.

EARNINGS BY OCCUPATION AND EDUCATION (subject reports). Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1984. 498 pages.

AN EVALUATION OF THE AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES FROM MEXICO'S 1979 CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE SURVEY, by Joseph E. Potter. Columbia, Md.: Westinghouse Health Systems, 1984. 37 pages.

FAO PRODUCTION YEARBOOK, 1982. Rome, Italy: UWI Pub., Food and Agriculture Org., 1983. 320 pages. $30.50.

THE FORECASTING ACCURACY OF MAJOR TIME SERIES METHODS, by S. Makridakis et al. New York: Wiley, 1984. 301 pages. $39.95.

IDENTIFYING SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTECEDENTS OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY, by E.R. McAnarney and Corinne Schreider. New York: William T. Grant Foundation, 1984. 76 pages.

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY, by Lynton Keith Caldwell. Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 1984. 367 pages.

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THE POPULATION OF LATIN AMERICA, by Hernan Sanhueza. New York: IPPF, 1984. 30 pages.

RAPPORT ANNUEL ANNEX 1983, by Dept. de la Sante Publique et de la Population. Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Service d'evaluation et de recherches, 1984. 246 pages.

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RETIREMENT AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR, edited by Henry J. Aaron and Gary Burtless, Washington, D.C.: Bureau of the Census, 1984. 498 pages.

STATISTICAL DIGEST 1983. London: UNESCO, UNIPUB, 1983. 333 pages. $13.50.

STATISTICAL YEARBOOK 1982, by Hungarian Central Statistical Office. Budapest: Ministry of Health, 1984. 380 pages.

SURVEY ANALYSIS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS, edited by John Ross and Regina McNamera. Liege, Belgium: Ordina Editions, 1984. 310 pages.

SPOTLIGHT

ALASKA

Population (Est. 1983): 479,000
Anchorage (largest city, est. 1982): 204,216
Births per 1,000 pop.(1982): 24.3
Deaths per 1,000 pop. (1982): 3.9
Land Area: 1,478,459 sq. kilometers (570,833 sq. miles)
1980 percent population born in state where now residing:
United States: 63.9 percent
Alaska: 32.0 percent
1980 percent population living in same house as 1975:
United States: 53.6 percent
Alaska: 32.2 percent
1980 percent living in same state 5 years ago:
United States: 88.5 percent
Alaska: 68.5 percent

by Jo van Patten

Alaska is a modern-day synthesis of the historical development of the United States, simultaneously frontier and 21st century.

Geographically the farthest north of any of the states, it straddles the Arctic Circle and borders on the Arctic Sea. There are more square miles within its border than people, giving it the lowest population density of any state, with 0.8 persons per square mile. Typical of frontier areas, there are more men than women – 114 men to every 100 women; the U.S. ratio is 94.

The median age of 26.0 years is young; the U.S. median age in 1980 was 30.0 years. Only 11,547 persons were over 65 years in 1980, 2.9 percent of the state's total population; very low in comparison to a national proportion of 11.4 percent. On the other end of the age scale, 22.8 percent of the state's population was between the ages of 5 and 17 (U.S., 19.1 percent) and 37.5 percent was between 18 and 35 years of age (U.S., 29.6 percent).

Unlike most other states, Alaska's racial structure is divided primarily between white and native American. All other groups together comprise only 7 percent of the total, with persons of Hispanic origin only 2.4 percent. The native population is comprised of several different Indian groups: Eskimos in the North, Aleuts on the Aleutian Chain, Athabascans in the central or interior area, and the Tlingits and Haidas along the southern panhandle. The state's Indian heritage gives it a unique cross-cultural background.

With the passage of the Native Claims Settlement Act by Congress in 1971, many land areas within the state were deeded to 13 regional native groups, propelling them into a totally different, profit-oriented, economic style. Corporations were established to administer the trusts of land and money. These native corporations are unique to this state and an innovative attempt at settling the age-old native land rights problems. There is only one Indian reservation in the state.

Historically, Alaska has had a boom or bust economy. A gold rush caused a stream of immigrants at the turn of the century. The next influx of money and manpower came during the 1940s when the strategic military importance of the area became apparent. Again, in 1945, the economy turned down when the massive war supplies of men and materiel were no longer needed. In the 1970s the oil potential of the Northern Slope surfaced. As exploration began, so did construction of the pipeline which would carry the oil the length of the state to the ice-free port of Valdez. Another boom cycle in the economy was started, another major influx of men primarily in the 20-35-year-old range only to dwindle off after the pipeline was completed. Now that oil recovery in the North Slope area has moved into the production phase, Alaska's economy appears to be stabilizing.

A strong division between urban and rural exists within the state. According to the 1980 census, 64.3 percent of the state's population lived in places defined as urban, with almost two-thirds of this group living within the municipality of Anchorage. The state has estimated a 29 percent increase in population between 1980 and 1983, and 48 percent of this increase occurred in Anchorage. This dichotomy between urban and rural serves to illustrate some of the extremes of Alaskan life – sometimes because of the urban-rural division and sometimes in spite of it.

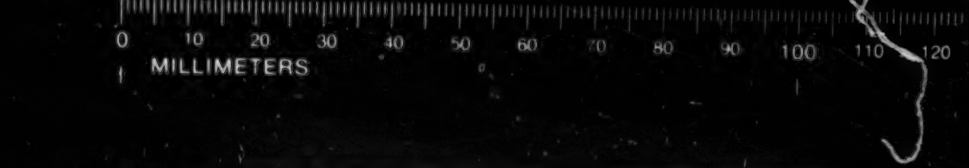
Alaska Div. of Tourism

Children play in Kotzebue, Alaska.

Per capita income varies from $15,611 at Bristol Bay (near the Aleutians), the highest in the nation, to one of the lowest in the nation, $3,123 in Wade Hampton (south of the Bering Strait). A subsistence economy – living off the land through hunting and fishing – coexists with television, satellite communications, freeze-dried dinners, and Paris fashions. Innovative methods and modern technology are used to develop resources as well as provide basic services, i.e., hundreds of miles of pipeline were specially engineered so as not to disturb the permafrost, while educational and vocational services are not uncommonly provided via telephone-linked computer terminals. Roads are minimal in the state. The main population centers of Anchorage, Fairbanks, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough are on a common highway. The majority of the remainder of towns and villages throughout the state can be reached only by air or water, including the capital city of Juneau, population 20,000. The main road to the state is through a foreign country (Canada), mainly a two-lane highway, not yet totally paved.

With the median number of school years completed at 12.8 years, Alaskans have one of the highest educational attainment levels in the nation. This and the youthfulness of the population are central factors in Alaska's future. Certainly adapting the many rapid technological advances to the unique circumstances of this state will require an innovative and resourceful population, willing to take risks. As Alaska completes the transition from frontier to "settled statehood," the adaptability of its population will be critical.

Jo van Patten is Labor Economist, Research and Analysis Section, Alaska Department of Labor.



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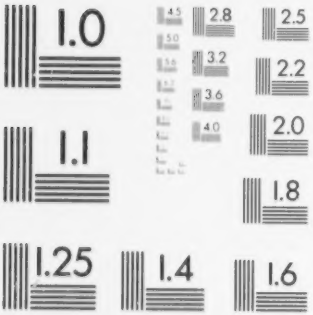

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